



MEMORANDUM

To: Traffic Study Files

From: Eric Bollich, P.E., PTOE
South Area Supervisor
Traffic Engineering Division
Austin Transportation Department

Date: June 27, 2012

Subject: Reduced Speed School Zone Investigation

Location: Ralph Ablanedo Drive

Date(s) of Previous Investigation: None

E. Bollich
6/27/12

A traffic engineering investigation has been conducted to determine if a reduced speed school zone should be installed on Ralph Ablanedo Drive near Peaceful Hill Lane (the “study intersection”) for students attending Williams Elementary School.

Austin Independent School District School (AISD) is discontinuing bus service serving students south of the school beginning with the 2012-2013 school year; therefore, pedestrians living south of Ralph Ablanedo Drive will be required to cross this street if they choose to walk or bicycle between home and school. Figure 1 presents a map of the study area.

The following information was collected and analyzed for this determination.

Proximity of the School Crossing to the School

The proposed school crossing at the study intersection is located approximately one half-mile south of Williams Elementary School. The adjacent land uses are primarily residential as the Park Ridge and Parkridge Gardens Neighborhoods abut Ralph Ablanedo Drive. Automobile part stores and salvage yards are also adjacent to Ralph Ablanedo Drive.

Pedestrian Count

Because the 2012-2013 school year has not begun, no students have been counted crossing Ralph Ablanado Drive. Pedestrians from the Park Ridge Neighborhood are expected to cross as a result of the discontinued bus service.

Existing Roadway Conditions

Location	Type of Controls	ADT Two Way	Posted Speed Limit	Street Width
Ralph Ablanado Dr	Uncontrolled	> 1,200	40 mph	22 feet
Peaceful Hill Ln	Stop	1,141	30 mph	18 feet

Presence of Adult Crossing Guard or Student Safety Patrol

The City's Child Safety Program has committed an adult crossing guard at this intersection if a school zone is established. No guard or patrol currently works this crossing.

Crash History

Austin Police Department's crash database was culled for crashes near the study intersection between June 2011 and June 2012. None were reported during this time period.

Sight Distance

Unobstructed sight distances are approximately 450 feet and 800 feet west and east of Peaceful Hill Lane, respectively, on Ralph Ablanado Drive.

Sidewalks and Ramps

Sidewalks are along the south curb of Ralph Ablanado between South 1st Street and Peaceful Hill Lane and the west curb of Peaceful Hill Lane between Ralph Ablanado Drive and Mairo Street. Accessible ramps are located on the southwest, northwest, and northeast corners of the intersection of Ralph Ablanado Drive and Peaceful Hill Lane. Pedestrians would use the sidewalk along the south side of Ralph Ablanado Drive to cross the west leg of the study intersection and use the sidewalk along the west side of Peaceful Hill Lane to access school.

Recommendation

Based on the analysis of this information, it is my engineering judgment that a reduced speed school zone of 25 miles per hour be installed on Ralph Ablanado Drive from 200 feet west of Peaceful Hill Lane to 210 feet east of Peaceful Hill Lane and operate between 7:00 AM and 8:00 AM and 2:30 PM and 3:30 PM.